



I Am a U.S. Citizen...

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How Do I...Get Information About Requirements for Traveling Abroad?



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

M-604 (05/05)

Passports

United States (U.S.) citizens need a U.S. passport when traveling to, or returning from, most countries. However, a passport is not required when traveling to a country in:

North America, Central America, and the Caribbean (except that a passport is required to travel to and from Cuba, or South America).

A U.S. citizen must have a passport when traveling to and from any country or area not listed above. Passport requirements are changing. For more information, please check with the U.S. Department of State. Their website is at www.state.gov.

Please note: Due to heightened security, we recommend that U.S. citizens who have a passport take it with them even when traveling to countries where it is not required.

The U.S. Passport Office handles all applications for a U.S. passport. For information about requirements and how to apply, contact them directly. Getting one is not difficult and expedited service is available for an additional fee.

If you are traveling to or from a country where a U.S. passport is not required, you'll usually need two documents:

- A document to prove your identity, such as a valid U.S. driver's license, military ID, or a valid photo ID; and
- A document to prove your citizenship, such as a notarized copy of your birth certificate issued by a U.S. State.

If you were not born in the U.S., you can use your original naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship.

Hospital-issued birth certificates, voter registration cards, and affidavits cannot be used.

Visas

Many countries require that U.S. citizens have a visa issued by that country in order to enter.

For information about whether a country requires a visa, please contact that country's embassy or consulate well in advance of your

planned travel. For more "Tips for Traveling Abroad," please see the U.S. State Department web page at www.travel.state.gov.

Please note: USCIS does not issue U.S. passports or foreign visas. If you plan on traveling abroad, please check with the U.S. Department of State for more information well before your planned trip.

Key Information

USCIS

• On the Internet at: uscis.gov

For more copies of this Fact Sheet, or information about other citizenship and immigration services, visit our website. You can also download forms, e-file some applications, check the status of an application, and more. It's a great place to start! If you don't have Internet access at home or work, try your library. If you can't find what you need, call customer service.

• Customer Service: **1-800-375-5283**

• Hearing Impaired TDD Customer Service: 1-800-767-1833

Disclaimer: This Fact Sheet is a basic guide to help you become generally familiar with our rules and procedures. For more information, or the law and regulations, see our website. Immigration law can be complex, and it is impossible to describe every aspect of every process. You may wish to be represented by a licensed attorney or by a nonprofit agency accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Other U.S. Government Services—click or call

In general	www.firstgov.gov	1-800-333-4636
U.S. Department of State	www.state.gov	1-202-647-6575

